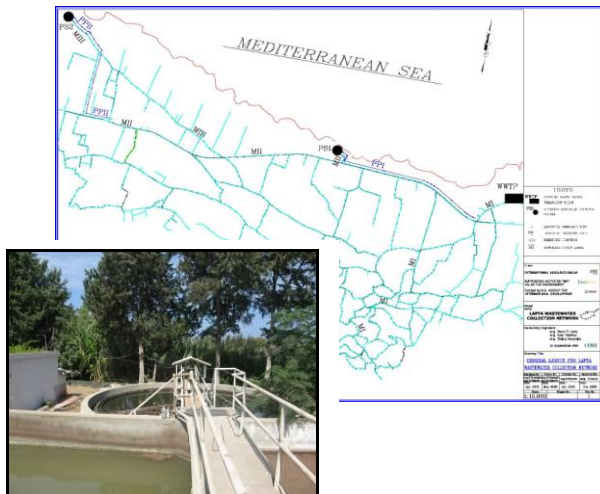




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Building a Better Mousetrap: SAVE Infrastructure Design Activity Highlights Need for Data and Skills

Using the results from an extensive infrastructure design activity for a potential wastewater treatment system in the area of Lapta/Lapithos, USAID's Supporting Activities that Value the Environment project organized briefings and workshops during the week of June 23 aimed at demystifying the design and fund-raising process for donor-funded infrastructure projects. Two of the sessions were co-organized with the European Union's Program Support Office, which oversees the EU's €259 million aid program for the Turkish Cypriots. It is expected that the EU will provide significant funding for water, waste and wastewater management projects in the coming years, but there is little understanding of the process through which this funding must be accessed and inadequate capacity to design and implement the actual activities. Using wastewater as an example, SAVE worked with a team of local engineers and professionals to design a project to EU specifications. This activity was useful in helping the Lapta/Lapithos region begin to tackle its wastewater problem, but more importantly, in highlighting the importance of quality data and skilled design.



Young Entrepreneurs Recognized at Business Plan Competition Award Ceremony



The ACT-funded Action for Young Enterprises in Cyprus (AYEC) held an Awards Ceremony to reward the winners of the 2008 Business Plan Competition. The purpose of AYEC is to foster young start-up entrepreneurs across all frontiers and socio-economic strata in Cyprus. This year, following start-up business training, twelve finalist entrepreneurial young teams submitted promising business proposals for judgment by an academic and business jury.

Through facilitating the development of creative and innovative entrepreneurial initiatives that promote products and services island-wide and abroad, AYEC creates growth opportunities for all Cypriots, and helps reduce factors that hinder socio-economic progress in Cyprus.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises

The EDGE banking team conducted a “Basic Banking” course for twelve participants from seven local banks from June 23-26 and continued its work helping several local banks design and develop their in-bank training programs.



*Acting USAID
Representative
Keith Simmons
handed out the
certificates of
achievement.*

Association building work continues with the TC Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the TC Banks Association as well as with several new but potentially robust business associations, including the businesswomen’s association, the tour guides association and the information technology association. With the arrival on island of Charles Conconi, EDGE has launched its new, practice-oriented competitiveness activity, which will document and analyze the barriers facing TC firms and begin to work with key stakeholders to overcome them.

Resource Efficiency Achievement Project

Five Phase II pilot projects have been tendered and are underway. The pilot projects include the following installations: motor optimization, fuel source conversion, solar collection, biogas engineering works, and local and central reactive power compensation. All five firms who submitted tender offers were REAP-trained ESCO firms, with the exception of one, who is a member of the Energy Professionals Association.

Action for Cooperation and Trust

The “Cyprus Peace Culture Forum for Joint Actions,” which featured presentations by members of both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot NGOs, ended on June 19th. An HIV/AIDS awareness event on June 23rd revealed survey findings from a health-care needs assessment study on HIV/AIDS in the Turkish Cypriot community, featured presentations about Greek Cypriots living with HIV/AIDS, and provided entertainment by local artists. The ACT-funded Cyprus Volunteer Network Project launched a public awareness campaign to promote volunteerism within Cypriot Civil Society organizations. The Shooting Reality Film Festival, featuring 12 short films produced as part of ACT’s Young Filmmakers Project, continues to travel around the island with its latest screening in Limassol.

Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

Work continues at the 11th century church of Panayia Pergamiotissa in Akanthu village where a bicomunal team is now working on documentation and emergency consolidation of the church’s wall paintings. Based on the findings of its composting, mulching and soil testing pilot projects, SAVE has developed several information brochures targeting different local groups in order to increase awareness and adoption of water saving methods by households and farms. Thirteen small grants proposals were received in response to the latest request for small grant proposals. Work continues on SAVE’s various GIS-related activities and SAVE hosted the 7th GIS Users Group meeting that focused on the use of urban information systems.



With a small grant from SAVE, a tri-communal group that includes Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and Maronite Cypriots have initiated conservation work on the eleventh century Maronite church dedicated to the Virgin Mary in Cambili/Hisarkoy village.

News from Nicosia

June 17

Under Secretary General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe met with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

June 20

The two sides announced intention to implement six confidence building measures in the coming months. Details have not yet been announced, but the measures include hastening the crossing of ambulances across the checkpoint, twinned cultural heritage projects, and studies and exchanges on common environmental issues.

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.